(c) The Department of Wastelands Development has commissioned National Wastelands Identification Project with the collaboration of the National Remote Sensing Agency. Under this Programme 228 districts in the country having more than 5% of the geographical area as wastelands have been mapped. Precise information regarding the whole country including Orissa is not available. However according to one estimate, the extent of wastelands in Orissa is 6.38 million hectares.

Amorphous Nature of Alkaline Solids

5015. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the technology of "Amorphous Nature of Alkaline Solids" developed by Seema Bhatia of Delhi University; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action is taken by Government in this regard till now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of the technology developed by Ms. Seema Bhatia of Delhi University.

Commercialisation of the knowledge base of C.S.I.R.

5016. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI SOM PAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert committee has suggested an action plan to commercialise the knowledge base of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as an incentive to scientists for industrial research; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken or is being taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mashelkar Committee appointed for the purpose had inter-alia recommended revival of earlier practice of sharing of monies/earnings realised from licensing of intellectual property, contract R&D and S&T services with those engaged in generation and marketing of knowledgebase.

The Committee accordingly suggested that 40% of the intellectual fee for all contract research projects, intellectual property licensing and 20% of net surplus of S&T services could be distributed as incentive to such staff.

These recommendations have been approved by the CSIR Society with effect from 1st April, 1994.

Further research on earthquakes after failure of predictions

5017. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether new research is being made in view of the recent earthquake in Maharashtra and the failure of predictions in this area;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the same people who have proved an utter failure in research on earthquakes have been given the task of fresh research or whether experts are being brought afresh for this purpose; and

(d) what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a)